

Climate Partnership

Notes and actions from last meeting (15th February 2024)

Attendees: Mark Bagnall (MB) (Co-Chair and Barts Health NHS Trust); Kabir Hussain (KH) (Co-Chair and Cabinet Lead for Environment and the Climate Emergency),

Alex Jeremy (Poplar HARCA); Bethan Mobey (Women's Environmental Network); Fiona Peskett (Barts Health NHS Trust); Sophie Goddard (Canary Wharf Group); Alison, Basa (BARTS HEALTH NHS TRUST); Susannah Littlewood (Trees for Cities); Jorge Castillo-Rodriguez (New City College); Stanley Shepherd (East London Business Alliance); Chloe Johnston (Poplar HARCA); Sufia Alam (London Muslim Centre); Ben Campion (Toynbee Hall); Jan McHarry (Poptel); Paul Roper (Lee Valley Park); Faaria Ahmed (Head of Global Learning London); Ian Parkes (East London Business Alliance); Zoe Woodward (East End Homes); Zoe Sturgess (Queen Mary University); Riikka Vihriälä (New City College).

Officers: Abdul Khan (Head of Sustainability); Seth Bondonno (Sustainability); Jonathan Taylor (Sustainability); Vicky Allen (Strategy Policy); Jonathan Mort (Policy, Mayor's Office); John Archer (Biodiversity); Tracy Routledge (Head of Building and Development); Darren Cruice (Head of Housing Asset Management).

Item
<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdul Khan, Mark Bagnall and Cllr Hussain welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mark Bagnall ran through the agenda.
<p>Matters arising from last meeting & sub-group feedback.</p> <p>Previous Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL Send emissions data to sustainability team or contact the team if their organization needs support in reporting emissions. <p>Seth & Abdul to reaffirm ask for climate partnership members to share with LBTH sustainability team reporting emissions data.</p> <p>Ian Parkes (ELBA) - highlights delays in sending across information from ELBA.</p> <p>New Action - Mark asks everybody to get this information to our climate partnership email by the 8th of March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL Contact Vicky Allen or Abdul Khan if you or a member of your organization would like to join one of the sub-groups. <p>Vicky - I've not received anything from members.</p>

New Action - Seth highlights that he will be sending out an interest form for the sub-groups so that one meeting can be organized in each subgroup between now and the next climate partnership meeting.

- **ALL** Contact Vicky or Abdul if you know any contacts who would like to join the climate partnership or an organization that we should approach to join the climate partnership.

Vicky - not received requests.

Mark – states = Seth and Mark met a few weeks ago to discuss organizations within Tower Hamlets and whether we could identify the larger carbon emitters.

Seth –sustainability team is working to identify how LBTH could encourage large organizations, large employers, and high polluters to join the climate partnership.

Ian Parkes – will be difficult to engage with these larger organisations to the climate partnership and to ask for actions from these organisations. Suggests utilising the resources from Ian and Sophie who represent the business community and highlights that smaller and medium businesses would be more effective to target.

Sophie Goddard – Agrees that larger companies already post their information online and that LBTH can effectively target SMEs to reduce their emissions. The way in which each organisation transitions towards Net Zero is dictated by lots of different frameworks.

Sophie Goddard – Adds that it is important for LBTH to understand where those emissions are coming from and then categorizing that and encouraging reduction, whether it's a large business or an SME.

Councillor Kabir Hussain - As a Council, we need to know who the partners are. If you bring anybody to the table, we need to know who they are.

Mark - A lot of large organisations do have a strong sense of corporate social responsibility, and I think we should try and tap into that.

Mark – asks that councillor Hussain with Mark jointly write to select large organisations and jointly write to an appropriate person in these organisations.

Councillor Kabir Hussain – agrees with action. Highlights that it is a cross sector collaboration, so the Council needs to know what their expertise is and take actions from there.

New Action – Mark and Councillor Kabir Hussain will liaise to send out to the most significant employers and see the success rate.

- **ALL** Respond to survey about topic areas for innovation and leadership sub-group (email to follow shortly).

New Action - Seth will send out sub-group form to partnership members.

- **Abdul** to ensure the names of sub-group Chairs are circulated to partners in correspondence.

Abdul – Wants to ensure that current leaders of subgroups are continuing their commitment going forward.

- **ALL** please provide any further comments about the Partnerships approach to supporting the green jobs agenda.

Abdul – At the previous meeting we've put together a position statement about the state of the green jobs within the borough. Can showcase at the next meeting.

New Action - Vicky and Abdul to further discuss at next sub-group meeting and produce a position statement for the Partnership to adopt.

Abdul – at the next meeting there will be a position statement on Green Jobs for the partnership to adopt.

- **ALL** please provide any further comments about a climate alliance.
- **Abdul** to identify a sub-group that can support refreshing ideas for the climate alliance.

Abdul – the innovation and leadership subgroup will support the development of a climate alliance.

Sub-group feedback.

Seth gives reminder about the definitions of the different subgroups.

Innovation and Leadership sub-group

- Continue the Tower Hamlets Climate Partnership through leadership, collaboration, and coordination.
- Support creation of a borough-wide Climate Alliance.
- Share best practice and stimulate location actions by showing what can be done and what net zero looks like.

Research, data, and intelligence sub-group

Green Jobs

- Engage education providers in the borough on green skills, and local businesses on green jobs.
- Develop local skills to enable mass retrofit of buildings and all tenures of housing.
- Identify the skills gap that can be actioned by local education providers.
- improve access to climate education, green skills, training and apprenticeship pathways and improve linkages to local jobs in the green economy.

Data Objectives and Outcomes

- The objective of the Data sub-group is to *Create a transparent and consistent approach to Carbon Accounting - to use as a borough-wide real-time proxy baseline from which to improve.*
- The priority action area associated with the Data sub-group is to *Identify common carbon accounting methodology.*

Greening, growing and biodiversity sub-group (Tower Habitats)

John Archer - gives update on subgroups. Opportunities for academic universities to join projects. Next meeting on 18th April to approve draft local biodiversity action plan.

John Archer - Any organisations here who are not currently on the mailing list for the greening growing and Biodiversity Group and would like to be please let me know, I'll get either get in touch with John Archer or via Seth.

Priority Areas:

- **Community greening, growing, and enhancing biodiversity across the borough.** This is important to reducing carbon because plants help to combat poor air quality, absorb carbon, provide shade, and combat heat island effect.
- **Engage in tree planting programmes.** This is important to reducing carbon because it helps raise awareness of nature and could encourage local stakeholders to take wider climate action.

Climate Partnership Terms of Reference (ToR) (Mark Bagnall, Abdul Khan)

One year on from re-establishing the Climate Partnership, asking:

- *Is the TOR still relevant?*
- *Is the TOR ambitious enough?*
- *What have we achieved one year on?*
- *What changes (if any) should we make?*

Feedback, discussion, and practical next steps (ALL)

Fiona Barts (NHS Health Trust) – good to reevaluate TORs but they are still relevant. It would be good to showcase what everyone's doing to transition towards net zero to understand how it all fits together with the partnerships and ambitions moving forward.

Mark - we should have an update from all the organizations that are represented here.

New Action – Next Agenda - organizations to give an update on their transition towards reducing their carbon emissions or transitioning towards net zero.

Jorge Castillo-Rodriguez (NCC) – states that terms of reference still apply and highlighted worst rate of recycling in the borough. Proposes to implement into the TORs. Asks if we are looking at the evidence to tackle recycling.

Vicky Allen – referenced that LBTH has lots of recycling improvement plans that are being worked on, including working with the GLA on this issue as well.

Mark comments on Climate Partnership Terms of Reference

Mark - Wouldn't propose that we do any wholesale changes to these terms of reference. Mark suggests that the initiatives that we identified last year are still important and as a partnership we need to find a way of enabling those streams of work and measuring the success of those streams of work and then providing feedback to the mayor's group. Interested on how we as a partnership can take forward those actions.

The Partnership should particularly focus on these aspects of the TORs:

- Partnership is to develop a net zero communication campaign and map existing initiatives.
- Identify suitable operating model through collaboration, leadership and facilitation, the Climate partnership will coordinate delivery of the net Zero Carbon Partnership Action Plan and develop and implement a borough Net Zero Carbon Action Plan.

Abdul – highlights that the council target of the 2025 and 2045 Net Zero targets. The 2025 target relates to our own council emission. We have Tower Hamlets Homes and leisure centres will come in-house. It means that then those emissions will be added to our baseline and then we have a duty

to include our scores emissions within the baseline. The baseline has gone up by four times. Various papers have been prepared to tackle this. We are still working towards 2045 target.

Abdul – states we have a lot of SMEs within the borough and collectively they add emissions in tackling net zero. LBTH has provided grant funding for funding for those businesses and will continue to do that. The community groups are recognized as a key collective partner and grants have been provided for carrying out carbon reduction projects going forward.

Bethan Mobey (WEN) – It is important to create space and forums and assemblies and opportunities for residents to shape policy direction goals.

Fiona Peskett (NHS Health Trust) - Sits on the Mayors Partnership executive group and highlights newly launched plan, which has five calls to action. Fiona highlights that PEG is looking at housing and mental health and wellbeing.

Ian Parkes – highlights 5 calls to action from PEG group which should be linked to climate partnership.

Jonathan Mort – commends the accountability shown by LBTH. Contends importance for partnership members to be open and honest regarding targets to help increase wider accountability of the partnership group.

Ian Parkes – asks how are the actions in the borough focusing on the community? This is linking to Bethan's point regarding increasing resident engagement. Highlights that how can we measure the impact of the small actions.

Bethan Mobey – holds external evaluator to feed in data for community-based projects to measure carbon reduction measures for behavioural change and community engagement.

Ian Parkes – Measurement is needed around community engagement.

Jonathan Mort – Part of the objective of the TORs is to tackle the largest organisations. Acknowledge small organisations while focusing on reducing large organisation impact.

Councillor Hussain – highlights the high-density urban nature of Tower Hamlets and asks to involve Kieron - Mayors external affairs advisor to the meeting.

New Action – Seth to add Kieron to meeting.

Jorge Castillo-Rodriguez – asks how to we will achieve targets. Asks what actions are to be taken forward to be able to achieve these targets and those objectives?

New Action – Mark and Abdul and Make to meet to discuss the comments that have arisen. Track where we are and track what we are doing. How this will be contributing to Net Zero.

Sophie Goddard – Reference to George's "how?" point – states it is helpful to understand the specific categories of reaching Net Zero. It can be easier to demonstrate on a category of emissions basis.

Abdul – Captured the comments. If there are any further comments, please send to Abdul and the team. Will circulate information on topic that we have just discussed.

New Action - Send any further comments on Terms of Reference to Abdul and the team. Will circulate information on topic that we have just discussed.

Workshop Questions

- *What activities or initiatives would you like to see prioritised in the coming year and how can your organisation contribute towards these activities or initiatives?*

Group 1 – Contends the importance of communications and ensuring that communications are being done and showcasing what the partnership is up to. Also, community engagement – finding opportunities to get the community engaged and utilising green and blue space.

Group 2 – Stability across the year is important, welcomes use of subgroups for this. Suggests organising activities around key dates in year such as World Tree Week and utilise these events. Also, focuses on prioritising events that we can do this year alongside long-term targets. What can we do this year?

Group 3 – Main concern was output based – There is lots of work in the Mosques and how that links into Ramadan. Important to increase access to recycling. Also difficult to visually show how 10 tonnes of plastic contributes to increased emissions and how it affects wellbeing of residents.

- *How can the partnership support organisations and sectors in their transition to net zero?*

Group 1 - Talked about communications. Idea of defining what Net Zero means and making it meaningful for residents. Talked about piloting behaviour change projects.

Group 2 – telling a story about what Net Zero means to residents. Sharing expertise and different expertise from partners. Gaining an understanding of the strengths of partners.

Group 3 – Clarity of purpose, sharing information about carbon plans, sharing expertise with organisations in carbon reduction and education on these issues. Promotion and education – celebration success and good work in the partnership are doing will contribute to success going forward.

Group 4 – Organise partner speed dating. Sharing good practice with businesses and other groups such as on education. Opportunity to share good practice and give more ideas to learn to reduce carbon emissions.

Forward Plan

- Subgroup leaders will plan subgroup meetings in March.
- Mark, Abdul, and Seth to meet to plan agenda for next meeting.
- Subgroup meetings will be arranged in April around 1 month before next Climate partnership meeting.
- Next Climate Partnership scheduled for 9th May 2024.

Date of next meeting

9th May 2024 – 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Actions for Next Meeting

Mark and **Councillor Kabir Hussain** will liaise to send out to the most significant employers and see the success rate.

Actions for Next Meeting

- **Mark** and **Councillor Kabir Hussain** will liaise to invite large employers to join climate partnership.
- **ALL** Send emissions data to sustainability team or contact the team if their organization needs support in reporting emissions by 8th March.
- **Seth** will send out sub-group form and wider survey to partnership members.
- **ALL** complete Climate Partnership subgroup form.
- **Vicky** and **Abdul** to discuss following next subgroup meeting and produce a Green Jobs position statement for the Partnership to adopt.
- **ALL** - organizations to give an update on what actions they are taking to transition towards reducing their carbon emissions or reaching net zero.
- **Seth** to add Kieran Andrieu (Head of External Relations, Mayor's Office) to climate partnership distribution list.
- **Mark** and **Abdul** - meet to discuss the comments that have arisen about the terms of reference and objectives of the climate partnership. To present next steps at future partnership meeting.
- **ALL** - Send any further comments on Terms of Reference to Abdul and Seth.

LBTH Climate Partnership Email – climate@towerhamlets.gov.uk